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to questions of reparation arising from the breach of international obligations, and to the interpretations of all sentences passed by the court. Indeed, by the provisions of Article XXXIV the court is competent to take cognizance of disputes of any kind whatsoever which are submitted to it by a general or special agreement of the parties.

Furthermore, in case of dispute as to whether the differences come within the category defined, "the court shall decide." The court, therefore, is to be a court, not of arbitration, but of justice, the parties being bound to submit to the court within the limits of its jurisdiction. Little by little, as law is provided, the jurisdiction of the court can be enlarged. Thus, at last the way seems about to open before the nations for the realization of that truth phrased by one of the greatest of Americans, "No question is ever settled until it is settled right."

It may be repeated that this is the most significant thing now before the world. We may well believe that there is to be an endless series of periodic conferences to carry on the work begun at The Hague in 1899, conferences for the promotion and extension of international law. As with our United States, so with the nations, a competent judicial body is essential for the interpretation of that law. The nations, the United States included, will, therefore, welcome this project for a Permanent Court of International Justice. The nations are in the way at last to apply the principles of self-imposed law, whether the methods of settlement be by arbitrators or by magistrates. Mirabeau's day, "when right shall be the sovereign of the world," is nearer at hand. It is, we are firmly convinced, about to break.

THE SPIRIT THAT IS FRANCE

FRANCE HAS always had a way of overcoming difficulties. At the beginning of the Republic, a half century ago, her difficulties seemed well nigh overwhelming. Following the fall of Paris, late in January, 1871, and the treaty of peace which ceded to Germany Alsace and a part of Lorraine, she had agreed under the terms of the treaty to pay to Germany an indemnity of 5,000,000,000 francs. Then, by one of the world's most memorable outbursts of patriotism and in spite of many other burdensome financial obligations, she arose to the appeal of M. Thiers for 3,000,000,000 by giving to him 40,000,000,000 francs. In the present war, 3,508 establishments employing twenty or more persons were destroyed by the war, principally in the Department of the Nord. On May 1, 2,627 of these establishments, or 74.8 per cent, had resumed business. Only the worldwide shortage of industrial machinery, materials, and labor

kept these establishments from transacting business on a pre-war scale. The results already achieved, in spite of the 1,400,000 dead French young men and of the other millions variously incapacitated, France is showing again that she is France.

Consul General A. M. Thackara reports by cable from Paris that the total French foreign trade for the first eight months of 1920 amounted to 38,967,333,000 francs against 27,486,564,000 francs for the corresponding period of 1919. Exports of food products amounted to 1,299,609,000 francs against 624,340,000 francs during the January-August period of 1919; industrial materials, 3,215,690 francs against 987,755,000; manufactures, 9,226,052,000 against 3,582,504,000 francs; postal packages, 664,787,000 francs against 548,619,000. Imports of food products amounted to 6,118,929,000 francs against 6,658,159,000; raw materials, 11,324,485,000 francs against 8,338,750,000; and manufactures, 7,187,781,000 francs against 6,746,437,000. The adverse trade balance for 1920 was 10,055,057,000 francs against 16,000,128,000 in 1919, a decrease of 5,945,071,000 francs.

WE, TOO, SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW

IS THE United States at war? If so, by whose order? Have we ever been at war with Russia? If so, when, and under what authority?

A correspondent from a distant State writes, making these inquiries. He calls attention to the press dispatches that there is a brigade of American troops, about 6,000 strong, in Coblenz, that these troops were originally sent from America with orders to go to Silesia, but that because of America's refusal to adopt the League of Nations without reservations, this American-Silesian brigade was stopped at Coblenz. If it had not been for America's failure to adopt the League, it is stated, our boys would be fighting in Silesia along with the Italians, French, Poles, and Germans. He also calls attention to the dispatch by way of the Universal Service that the United States cruiser *Pittsburgh* is in the Baltic to support the League of Nations.

Our correspondent inquires if, since America has not ratified the treaty of peace, we have any legal right to dispatch a warship for the purpose of enforcing that treaty. He points out, furthermore, that American authorities on the Rhine have overridden the Belgian proclamation of American neutrality by ordering American soldiers to load American ships at Antwerp with munitions for Coblenz en route to Poland. In the meantime, an American ship has left Malta loaded with ammunition for Poland, while in every port of Europe

munitions left behind by the American Expeditionary Forces are being loaded in American ships for the same destination.

We are told that the commander of the *Pittsburgh* has orders "to see that the munitions landed at Danzig are dispatched to Warsaw," whether Sir Reginald Tower agrees or not. Supplies of all kinds, including munitions of war purchased from this government, are being openly loaded into ships at American ports and sent to Poland. One Shipping Board vessel has recently taken a cargo at Philadelphia; while another, the *Warsowa*, is now at Antwerp loaded with munitions obtained from the American army on the Rhine. By such means the United States Government is now giving aid to Poland "by all available means." Strikes among the longshoremen at Philadelphia and Antwerp have been based upon opposition to this loading and handling vessels carrying munitions of war to Europe. With our correspondent, we, too, should like to know if we are at war, and, if so, by whose authority?

NEWNESS IN THE PEACE MOVEMENT

THERE IS a certain newness in the more recent approaches to the settlement of international questions. This is felt in every gathering where international questions are discussed. A conference held in the State of California during the month of August is a case in point. It was assumed by those who took part in that conference that the particular difficulties of governments rested on problems of population, of supplies and raw materials, of manufactured goods, and of contrasting ideals of civilization. So experts were brought in to give the latest facts relating to the growth of world population, to the causes and effects of migration, and as to the probabilities during the coming generation. Some of the speakers dealt with the problem of present and future supplies of raw materials, while others attempted to define the struggle for physical existence and economic contentment in its relations to the evolution of the race.

The local color of this particular conference was reflected in the questions raised: For example, How far do the facts enable us to go in attributing to "cheap labor," to the "standards of life," to "race prejudice," the various complications incident to the immigration policy of the nations? How far can a civilization develop its city life at the expense of the rural population, without the danger of degeneration? What known facts of biology and anthropology affect the problems of orientalism in North America, and what are their significance to the issues of race fertility and miscegena-

tion? What is the character of allegiance the family and the state may exact of each other when national policies conflict?

The clergymen, journalists, scientists, actuaries, educators, meeting for the discussion of such questions, illustrated the desire to base policies upon facts. Evidently sentimentality entered little into the talk. It was a business conference interested in results. To attend such a conference means more knowledge of the fundamental issues of contemporary civilization, more international mindedness in the best sense of that term. Such a conference, conducted in such a way and in such a spirit, indicates the kind of peace conference we must now plan for and encourage.

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CONFERENCE

THE INTERNATIONAL Financial Conference opened in Brussels September 24, ostensibly under the auspices of the League of Nations. At this writing it is in session. Invitations were sent not only to the members of the League, but to the United States, Luxemburg, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria. Improving upon the methods employed by the League of Nations, all nations are permitted to take part in the deliberations on an equal footing. Because of the neutrality of the Swiss Confederation, M. Ador, former president of the Republic, has been chosen president of the conference. Fourteen printed pamphlets containing the mass of facts relating to the economic conditions of the various governments have been submitted to the conference. The plan to limit the political questions and to cluster the discussions around the purely-economic conditions shows the attempt to make the discussions of practical financial import. It should be observed, therefore, that the conference is more a conference of experts than of nations. Indeed, the conference is not a conference of the League of Nations. Its findings are in the form of recommendations only and are wholly without binding force.

As is the way of international conferences, each group of representatives is given a short period of time, about fifteen minutes, in which to state the financial situation of its home government, particularly as regards budget, internal and foreign debts, credits, and money exchange. That is followed by a general discussion of those factors most closely related to the re-establishment of credit.

Such a conference of experts should have an illuminating effect in the chancelleries of the world. The practices of our financial men everywhere cannot help being modified by such a meeting of minds. But, what-